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## Grant fuels deaf leadership, empowerment in South Africa and Thailand

By Katherine DeLorenzo  
A \$3 million endowed grant awarded to Gallaudet last year by the Nippon Foundation of Japan to establish a World Deaf Leadership Program (WDL) is making drastic inroads in the self-sufficiency and educational opportunities for deaf people in emerging countries. Currently, the WDL supports ongoing projects in South Africa and Thailand.

Now under the auspices of the College for Continuing Education, the grant provides a sustainable development base for establishing a core of deaf leaders in developing countries through the promotion of educational access, economic mobility, and assistance in the teaching and acceptance of native sign languages.

Leading the WDL efforts are South Africa Project Director Pat Johanson, a professor in the School of Management, and Gallaudet Research Scientist Charles Reilly, who oversees the Thailand project.

Over 500,000 of 1.5 million deaf and hard of hearing South Africans use sign language, according to a fact-finding report on South Africa's deaf schools and communities undertaken last year, said Dr. Johanson. Limited employment opportunities and lack of access to the country's institutions of higher education have resulted in a "brain drain" of deaf South Africans, said Johanson. Recent developments, including the recognition of sign language as an official language for educational instruction, and the existence of a strong national deaf organization, The Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA), make the country a strong partner for starting seed programs, which Johanson calls "train the trainer" leadership programs.

Last summer's fact-finding delegation included Johanson, School of Management Associate Professor Tom Baldrige, and Special Assistant to the President Lindsay Dunn, a Gallaudet graduate and native South African. This summer, the

second stage of WDL's involvement in South Africa will commence with the assistance of Kubby Rashid, an assistant professor in the School of Management, and South African project liaison Bruno Druchen.

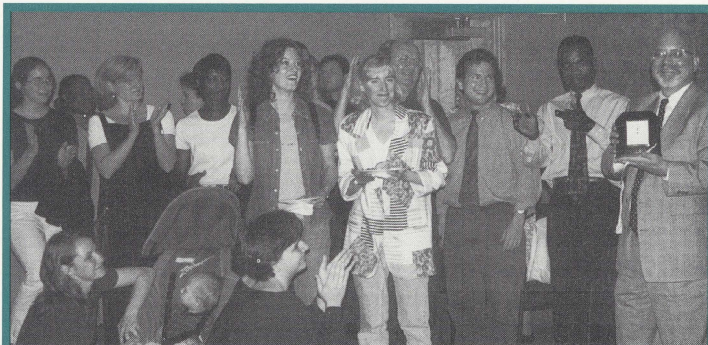
"Project activity has focused on planning for the national leadership training seminar and follow-up activities, to be held in South Africa this summer," said Johanson. "This training will focus on basic leadership skills and concepts: self-confidence, communication, team building, conflict management, problem solving, decision making, and trust building," she added. The seminar will be followed by a national forum sponsored by DeafSA.

WDL South Africa will host a number of "train the trainer" leadership seminars in East London, Durban, Umtata, Johannesburg, and Pietersburg this month, taught by Johanson and Rashid.

Dr. Reilly sees the acceptance of Thai Sign Language and the leadership role of the deaf community in creating accessible higher education as major breakthroughs for Thailand's 56,000 profoundly deaf people. "The Thai government has already agreed to certify sign language teachers who will be trained by Gallaudet faculty," said Reilly, whose involvement with Thailand's deaf community dates back to 1979 when he coauthored the first volume of a Thai sign language dictionary.

Among the objectives, states Reilly, is to provide deaf people in Thailand with a knowledge base and organizational support that will allow them to assume leadership and to advocate for issues related to communication and their own language.

Thanks to the involvement of WDL partners Ratchasuda College, a school devoted to providing access for deaf, blind, and disabled people within one of Thailand's leading universities,



Dr. Michael Karchmer is applauded by graduate students after receiving an award from the Graduate Student Association recognizing him for his support as dean of the Graduate School and Research and as faculty advisor for the GSA. The presentation was made to Karchmer, who has stepped aside after serving as dean for 10 years to become a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, at a May 5 reception in his honor.

Mahidol University, this attitude is changing, said Reilly. Also integral to WDL's goals is the National Association of the Deaf in Thailand.

Reilly sees the future of deaf Thais as one of self-sufficiency and educational access. While the Thai government has a long history of benevolence toward deaf people, they have seldom been offered a chance at educational advancement and self-empowerment.

Working with Reilly this summer are Dr. James Woodward, research director at Ratchasuda College, Dr. Mike Kemp, professor in the department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation, and Paul Dudis, who recently received his master's degree in linguistics. Also participating are Gallaudet students Jay Bunnag, a computer science major from Thailand, and Abbey Roin, a theater major and EPOC intern.

During July the team will con-

duct four regional workshops with members of Thailand's deaf organizations. Reilly and Woodward believe the greatest payoffs will come through these and other workshops involving deaf people, parents, teachers, and other professionals centered on the importance of education, career development, and empowerment.

The impact of role modeling offered by Kemp and Dudis is already apparent. Over 60 deaf people from around the country have applied to the sign language teacher certification program and the high school equivalency program, and many of them plan to seek college degrees, said Woodward.

"The deaf community, as full partners in the project, is learning how to mobilize its far-flung membership for advocacy, action, and service," said Reilly. "In the next three years we will involve many Gallaudet students and faculty in this empowerment effort." □

## Conference focuses on postsecondary disability support

By Katherine DeLorenzo  
A June 5 conference, "Issues and Innovations: Postsecondary Disability Support," attracted large numbers of deaf and disability support coordinators from around the country for what has become a growing area of debate and interest.

The conference was sponsored by the Nation's Capital Area Disability Support Services Coalition and Gallaudet's Office for Students with Disabilities.

The keynote presentation was given by Richard Harris, director of the Disabled Student Development Office at Ball State University. Harris, in his overview of trends and issues facing support services at institutions of higher education, called the current climate "a balancing act [between] protecting students' rights and interpreting and supporting institutional standards."

Among the issues facing administrators, said Harris, are concerns about providing support for "non-apparent" disabilities such as learning disabilities and mental disorders.

Moreover, trends in distance

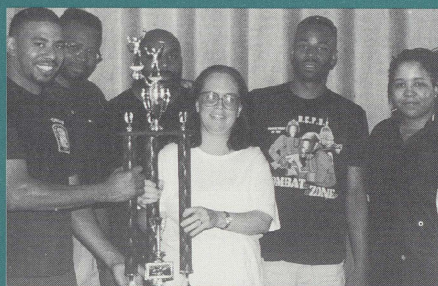
and online learning are giving deaf and disabled students more educational options, Harris said. "Ten years ago, we wouldn't be discussing this. Now, more and more people are familiar with issues about access," he added.

One popular session focused on new speech-to-print transcription systems, called C-Print, which utilize real-time captions in classroom settings as aids for deaf and hard of hearing students.

Howard Kallem, chief attorney for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, lectured on the new legal challenges faced by postsecondary institutions, and the legal rights and responsibilities of deaf and disabled students. Kallem explored how recent legal battles over accommodation issues have impacted how colleges and universities deal with disabled students. One model for access cited was the University of California system, which reduced costs by establishing state-wide support resources and shared educational tools.

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### Peg Worthington Invitational Volleyball Tournament Winner

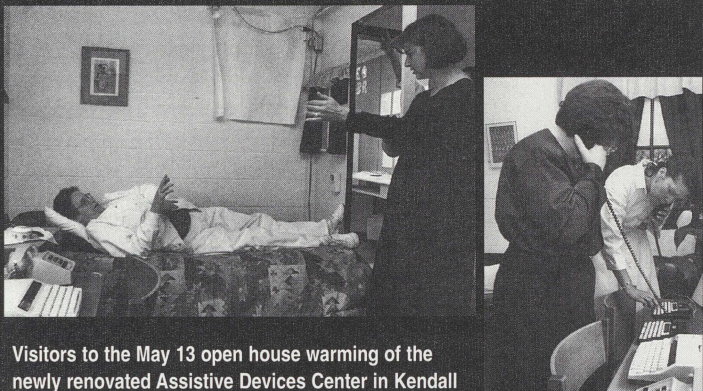


Team members from the D.C. Fire Department, Engine #27, accept the first-place trophy for the Peg Worthington Spring Invitational Volleyball Tournament from PCNMP Vice President Jane Fernandes. The D.C. Fire Department won first place among seven teams from on and off campus that competed in the May 30-31

event. The Gallaudet All-Stars took second place in the match. The approximately \$1,000 raised benefits the We Care Program, which assists underprivileged children of MSSD and KDES and their families. The tournament was named in honor of Worthington, MSSD physical education teacher who recently retired as the University's volleyball coach. Corporal George Roundtree of DOSS, who initiated We Care, extends his appreciation to Martean Pitts of PCNMP, William Dawes of Transportation Services, and to the many others who helped make the tourna-



## PCNMP revamps Assistive Devices Center in KDES




Visitors to the May 13 open house warming of the newly renovated Assistive Devices Center in Kendall School walked into a cozy one-room "home" decorated with curtains, pillows, pictures, a kid-sized bed and desk, chairs, lamps, tables, door and windows—and the latest in assistive/alerting devices for deaf people. The center allows the students to learn how to use a wide array of these devices. For example, a knock on the door frame produces a flashing light (knock light); pressing a doorbell produces another flashing light (doorbell flasher); pushing another doorbell causes lights to flash in the "bedroom" and/or the "living room," depending on how the "homeowner" sets the controls (FM alerting system); two alarm clocks are beside the bed, one flashes and the other shakes the mattress. At the open house (left photo), PCNMP teacher Terry Baird is alerted to a phone call which vibrates the bed she is on and flashes a table lamp, while PCNMP audiologist Debra Nussbaum explains the procedure. (Right photo) PCNMP audiologist Stephanie Marshall (right), who facilitated the center's renovation, explains the operations for two different types of TTYs to Dr. Sharon Newburg-Rinn, research evaluation associate in the Office of Research Program Evaluation.

## Disability support


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Topics explored during concurrent sessions included issues faced by students suffering from chronic illnesses, foreign language learning for learning disabled or "at risk" students, and transition issues for learning disabled adults.

"[The conference] is of great importance to support service personnel, faculty, and staff who work with the growing number of disabled students now entering colleges and universities across the United States," said Patricia Tesar, Coordinator of Gallaudet's OSWD. "Here at Gallaudet University, we see a dramatic increase in the number of students with disabilities requesting services from the OSWD. In the past three years, there has been more than a fifty-percent increase in the number of students served."

Videotapes and handouts from the conference can be requested by contacting OSWD. 

stories read over and over again. During each re-reading, the same story is told in American Sign Language with a slightly different focus to help beginning readers learn more about the printed text.

David Schleper, literacy coordinator for PCNMP, and Dennis Berigan, coordinator of ASL training and evaluation for PCNMP, will give the CDC team ongoing coaching and support in implementing these techniques in the classroom. 

## PCNMP HAPPENINGS

### Dr. Seuss, pizza, and bones motivate readers at CDC

By Susan M. Flanigan

The *Cat in the Hat* is back in style at the Child Development Center (CDC).

In March and April, CDC sponsored a variety of events to encourage both teachers and parents to read with their children every day. CDC, which serves as a preschool program for deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing children ages two to six, kicked off its read-a-thon with a week-long celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday (March 1).

Each of the five CDC groups celebrated in their own fashion. One group made the red and white striped stove-pipe hats from the *Cat in the Hat*, another made a birthday cake, another wrote its own version of Seuss' silly stories, and at the beginning of the week everyone celebrated with a meal of green eggs and ham. And, of course, everyone read lots of Dr. Seuss stories!

During the rest of the two-month period, CDC participated in a national read-a-thon. The U.S. Department of Education, the American Library Association, Scholastic, Inc., Reading is Fundamental, Inc., and Pizza Hut, Inc., are encouraging early childhood programs and elementary schools to participate in the "America Reads Challenge: Read\*Write\*Now." This year-long program is filled with literary activities for all ages at school and home.

CDC participated in the Pizza Hut national campaign, "Book It!" The campaign focused on teachers and parents committing to read to

a child for 15 minutes every day. If the teachers and parents read the required amount, each child received a coupon for a free pizza at the end of the month. Both teachers and parents wrote down the name of the story they read each day on a paper "bone." The teachers displayed the bones on a special poster. Every group collected enough bones for each child to receive his or her free pizza coupon.

"The response to the read-a-thon was great," said CDC Director Gail Solit. "The teachers, parents, and children loved it. The children were proud to see their bones posted. The teachers were happy to see lots of reading. And parents were proud to bring in the bones. There was even a bit of fun competition between some parents as to who brought in the most."

"Emerging literacy is an important focus at CDC," said Solit. "We incorporate reading into as many activities as possible. For example, during the 'Week of the Young Child' in April we sponsored a parent workshop on handling anger in children. At the workshop we displayed a large selection of children's books appropriate for that topic."

In May, a CDC team began using the repeated reading techniques described in Pre-College National Mission Programs' new videotape and manual, *Read It Again and Again*. The *Read It Again and Again* videotape and manual build on the idea that children enjoy having their favorite



## ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

About the so-called "Bomb Threat" we had not long ago. What a bunch of nonsense. Everybody knew nothing was going to happen, but the way the University carried on about it you would think World War III was about to start right here on campus. Next time we get something like that in the mail, I think we should just ignore it.

Not Impressed

Dear NI,

Nonsense, you say? Ignore it, you say? Where have you been for the past few years—living in a cave in New Foundland? Either that or you don't watch television or read newspapers.

It's sad but true that the number of dangerous "head cases" has multiplied colossally in recent years.

And while most of these are all bluster and no bang, we know from recent past experience that more than a few carry out their threats.

Suppose in this instance that there was indeed an explosion and that people were hurt. And suppose the University hadn't bothered to warn the campus community for the reasons you state in your letter. Such a non-response would be the very height of negligence; an act of utter moral turpitude.

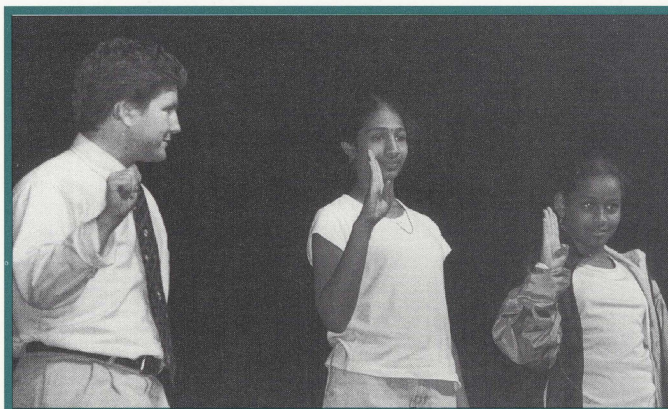
I for one am glad Gallaudet follows the "Better safe than sorry" policy. You should be too.

If you have a burning question that you would like to ask Aunt Sophie, e-mail her at [PUBLI-CREL](mailto:PUBLI-CREL). Be sure you say your question is for Aunt Sophie.



**SHARE HOUSE:** Deaf woman w/signal dog needs responsible

person/couple to share furnished house in Silver Spring on quiet street near park, close to Metro, garden and patio, sunny bedroom, W/D, share kitchen, \$400/\$500 mo., incl. util. and phone. Call (607) 869-9336 (TTY) or email [wsayers@epix.net](mailto:wsayers@epix.net).



Chad Entinger, a student tour guide in the Gallaudet Visitors Center, invites members of the audience on stage to demonstrate their knowledge of sign language at a May 21 Deaf Awareness Program hosted by students from KDES grades 6, 7, and 8 for local middle school students. The students were participants in "Kids to College," a year-long program that pairs them with area universities to stimulate excitement in the students about themselves, their future, and their education. This year, KDES students from grades 6, 7, and 8 paired with Howard University.

## NOTES FROM PERSONNEL

### Service awards for May

#### Five years:

**Antonio Davis Sr.**, Transportation; **Phyllis Maloney**, PCNMP Residence Education; **Gary Zaccagnini**, School of Undergraduate Studies

#### Ten years:

**Helen Jones**, Safety and Security; **Cheol Kim**, Networks and Communications; **Tonya Landis**, Financial Aid; **Jayne McKenzie**, ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation

#### Twenty years:

**Darnese Nicholson**, Transportation

### Twenty-five years:

**Thomas Harrington**, Library; **Rachel Hartig**, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Karen Kautz**, PCNMP, Information Systems and Computer Support; **Dr. Joseph Kinner**, History; **Gail Ries**, Gallaudet Research Institute; **Dr. David Tweedie**, Audiology

**New employees hired in May**  
**Stephanie Holder**, supervisor of scheduling services, Gallaudet Interpreting Services

### Retirements in May

**Dr. Inez Hinds**, Student Health Services



"My Life in Yellow," a three-dimensional collage by Leigh Landon, an art major who graduated in May, was one of about 150 entries representing many types of art in Gallaudet's annual Student Arts Show May 4-15.

